

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-12 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03
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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JANUARY 17 PRESS ROUNDUP

LONDON FOR AMB/EX

1. CHARLES CORDDRY OF BALTIMORE SUN SAID U.S. ARMS SALES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES COULD RISE TO RECORD 13.2 BILLION DOLLARS THIS FISCAL YEAR. CITING PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES PENTAGON PREPARED FOR STATE DEPARTMENT, CORDDRY NOTED ON FACE OF IT, PROJECTIONS WOULD SEEM TO POSE "OMINOUS THREAT" TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S AVOWED AIM OF REDUCING FISCAL 1978 SALES BELOW LEVEL FOR FISCAL 1977--11.2 BILLION DOLLARS.

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2. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT STATE DEPARTMENT AND ACDA OFFICIALS ARE ATTEMPTING TO STOP PUBLICATION OF NEW CIA STUDY THAT CONTENDS THAT SOVIET ARMS EXPORTS TO THIRD WORLD RIVAL AMERICAN SHIPMENTS. STUDY, WHICH OFFICIALS SAID CIA HOPES TO RELEASE EXPORTS BUT IS NOT BASED ON NEW FINDINGS CONCERNING SOVIET EXPORTS BUT ON NEW WAY OF CALCULATING VALUE OF THOSE EXPORTS. IN

OCTOBER, CIA REPORTED THAT MOSCOW IN 1976 CONCLUDED NEW SALES AGREEMENTS FOR ABOUT 2.34 BILLION DOLLARS AND DELIVERED SOME 2.25 BILLION IN ARMS TO THIRD-WORLD

COUNTRIES. U.S. TOTAL FOR BOTH NEW SALES AND ARMS DELIVERIES MORE THAN TWICE AS LARGE. NEW CIA REPORT, HOWEVER, IS SAID TO SHOW SOVIET AND AMERICAN TOTALS TO BE MUCH MORE EQUAL. THIS FINDING, BURT EXPLAINED, COULD JEOPARDIZE EFFORTS BY CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO EXERCISE UNILATERAL RESTRAINT IN MILITARY SALES. HE SAID STATE AND ACDA OFFICIALS ARE WORRIED THAT NEW CIA STUDY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN OVER SOVIET ARMS SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA, IRAQ, AND LIBYA, COULD UNDERMINE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSED REDUCTIONS, WHICH COULD TOTAL SOME ONE BILLION IN FISCAL 1978. BURT POINTED OUT THAT UNDER PREVIOUSLY USED APPROACH, CIA ATTEMPTED TO MEASURE TOTAL SIZE OF SOVIET EXPORTS, INCLUDING COST OF SUPPORT PROGRAMS, SPARE PARTS, AND MAINTENANCE. CIA OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, ARE SAID TO HAVE CRITICIZED THIS APPROACH ON GROUND THAT INTELLIGENCE ON SOVIET SUPPORT ACTIVITIES WAS NOT ADEQUATE TO PRODUCE FIRM ESTIMATE OF OVERALL SIZE OF MOSCOW'S PROGRAM. AS RESULT, NEW CIA STUDY ONLY ESTIMATES VALUE OF SO-CALLED "END ITEMS"--MILITARY HARDWARE SHIPPED TO THIRD WORLD, EXCLUDING TRAINING AND SUPPORT EXPENSES. BURT SAID NEW STUDY HAS GENERATED DISPUTE WITHIN ADMINISTRATION BECAUSE IT APPEARS TO CONTRADICT STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT UNCLASSIFIED

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AND OTHERS THAT U.S. IS BY FAR LARGEST EXPORTER OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

3. WASHINGTON STAR PUBLISHED ARTICLE BY JOSEPH ALBRIGHT OF COX NEWSPAPERS STATING U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO WORRY ABOUT MEANS OF KEEPING 20,000 U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS READY FOR USE IN WARTIME WITHOUT INVITING TERRORIST INCIDENT OR FREAK ACCIDENT IN TIME OF PEACE. ALBRIGHT SAID PENTAGON IS PROUD OF ITS SAFETY RECORD OVER LAST 33 YEARS OF PROTECTING ITS GLOBAL INVENTORY OF NUCLEAR WARHEADS. "SO FAR, NO ATOMIC WEAPONS HAVE EVER BEEN STOLEN OR ACCIDENTALLY DETONATED," ALBRIGHT SAID. THERE IS NO SINGLE SOLUTION "FOR GOVERNMENT'S DOOMSDAY STORAGE PROBLEM," ALBRIGHT SAID. REFERRING TO THE HUMAN ELEMENT, ALBRIGHT SAID THEORY BEHIND PENTAGON'S "HUMAN RELIABILITY PROGRAM," WHICH INVOLVES RIGOROUS BACKGROUND CHECKS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SCREENING, IS TO MAKE SURE THAT NO UNSTABLE SERVICEMAN IS EVER ASSIGNED TO DUTIES INVOLVING ACCESS TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS. "HOWEVER, IN PRACTICE, ARITHMETIC OF U.S. ATOMIC ARSENAL MAKES COMPLETE 'HUMAN RELIABILITY' AN ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE GOAL. WITH ABOUT 20,000 WARHEADS SPREAD OUT AMONG ABO;T 636 'NUCLEAR-

CAPABLE' UNITS AROUND WORLD, ERRORS IN PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENT ARE ALL BUT UNAVOIDABLE. ABOUT 20,000 SERVICEMEN ARE ASSIGNED TO GUARD NUCLEAR WEAPONS UNDER 'HUMAN RELIABILITY' PROGRAM, PENTAGON SPOKESMAN SAID."

4. WASHINGTON STAR REPORTED THAT HOT LINE BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW WAS SWITCHED MONDAY FROM CABLE TO TWO SATELLITES, ONE AMERICAN, ONE RUSSIAN. OFFICIALS SAID THEY EXPECTED USE OF SATELLITES "TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE OF HIGHER RELIABILITY," STAR REPORTED. STAR SAID CONTACT BETWEEN TWO CAPITALS WAS SOMETIMES BROKEN TEMPORARILY BY SUCH THINGS AS MANHOLE FIRE NEAR BALTIMORE DESTROYING CIRCUITS AND FARMER IN FINLAND CUTTING CABLE WITH HIS TRACTOR.
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5. JAMES BURNHAM, WRITING IN NATIONAL REVIEW, SAID TERMS OF SALT TREATY ARE MEANINGLESS UNLESS THEIR FULFILLMENT CAN BE VERIFIED BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT. "SALT MINUS VERIFIABILITY EQUALS ZERO," BURNHAM ASSERTED. BURNHAM MAINTAINED THAT SOVIETS "HAVE IN FACT NOT ONLY CHEATED ON SALT ONE BUT LAUNCHED AN ELABORATE PROGRAM TO SCREEN SOME OF THEIR KEY WEAPONS PROJECTS FROM SATELLITE OBSERVATION." SOVIET VIOLATIONS, BURNHAM SAID, WERE FIRST REVEALED BY AVIATION WEEK AS EARLY AS OCTOBER 21, 1974, BUT WERE DENIED BY NIXON-KISSINGER WHITE HOUSE. AVIATION WEEK CONTINUED TO REPORT VIOLATIONS, HE SAID, BUT OFFICIAL DENIALS WERE REPEATED BY FORD IN 1975. HE SAID AVIATION WEEK HAD BEEN DRAMATICALLY CONFIRMED BY FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY LAIRD'S ARTICLE IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF READER'S DIGEST. SOVIET VIOLATIONS, BURNHAM INSISTED, HAVE BEEN MULTIPLE AND GROSS. HE WONDERED IF CARTER WOULD COMMENT ON "THIS COVERUP INITIATED BY HIS PREDECESSORS, IN WHICH HE HAS SO FAR CONNIVED." BURNHAM CONCLUDED, "JUDGED BY WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR NATION, THIS SALT COVERUP MAKES WATERGATE COVERUP LOOK LIKE PIKER'S GAME." CHRISTOPHER

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